



TIRANA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

T I F F

Alternative thoughts, similar Views

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In the Palace of Congresses in Tirana



# A Grand Gala Evening Crowns Big Prizes Today

A Gala evening will crown today the prizes of the biggest cinematographic event held in Albania over the last years

People of art and culture, as well as the public who loves cinema will be present in this special evening where have been invited also distinct artists in the presentation of Rudina Magjistari.

The Gala will also receive the famous artist of the Italian and world cinematography Franco Nero, who arrives today in Tirana and who will personally come on stage to offer several surprises.

The days of this event passed so quickly and the competition of the films has brought to a conclusion all artists who have followed all sections of this festival. "It is difficult to come to a conclusion on the best films as they are all very good indeed." A private initiative, the organization of this festival achieved to bring together many Albanian artists and, perhaps, to keep them away from the daily routine of work and to give some

magic to the seventh art they represent.

Many foreign filmmakers, present during these days, have not forgotten to say that "the particular thing is in the fact of films competing in four categories, fiction, documentary, animation and experimental/student, making this way the festival interesting and with various colours.

It looks that the most difficult work has been that of the jury of the festival, made up by

well-known names of the Albanian and foreign cinematography.

Speaking with positive notes about the presented films, the participants have passed many hours discussing over them every day.

The surprises that the Gala will offer are going to mark the end of this newly-started road of the first international festival in Albania, which at the same time integrates this country in the world artistic map.

## A Grand Gala will Crown these Prizes:

The Best Film of TIFF	3000 Euro
The Best Fiction	2000 Euro
The Best Animation	2000 Euro
The Best Documentary	2000 Euro
The Best Experimental/Student	2000 Euro
The Best Albanian-Short	2000 Euro
The Public Award	
Media Award	



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## Documentary in T.I.F.F. '03

# Different Reality, Similar Emotions



Nothing more than the documentary film is closely related to the real life. In no other genre, be it cinematographic or not, the art and life do not go so closely together. This could have been the motive why in T.I.F.F. '03, the documentary triggered the interest of the public, who had the chance in six days not only to learn something about competing directors but also with the variety of the realities they presented. Thus, you can unexpectedly find yourself walking along with the elders of a southern village in the streets of "Abandoned Eden" of Eno Milkani, to hear the cries of a baby and

this to make your infinite happiness of your life and then turn into your deepest sadness. He follows the course of his parents. Further on, one can quest in the history of Albania, in the destiny of women of Pluton Vasi and make the same question "What does it mean?"

From the Albanian reality a step can be made toward the Iranian one and for few minutes you play with the children of Anas village the old game "Herese" of Ramtin Lavatipoor. Thereafter, you can be touched by the fate of "Maria Jesus", the deceived Peruvian immigrant of Massimiliano dhe Gianluca de Serio.

From Italy you can walk through a ruined boulevard in Paris where "Boulevard Scenes" are recorded, all on the same viewpoint of the two authors Andre Cleary and Denis O'Conelly.

From Paris you can knock and get in the stone house of the 84-year old Kojl Marc, the only remained from the big family of Lulgurajve and where his word is is thme "First and Last", an history represented in an excellent way by the Montenegrin director Momir Matovic.

An old man who leaves the place to another



character suffering from a particular illness; he grows older more slowly than normal people. But, as images pass through, one cannot stay indifferent to the destiny of the watchmaker Frank Wimart in "Internal Clock". You can't help from not joining and saying "keep up" to the Traffic-light Brothers of Simone Salvemini, the two Albanian imigrants who direct the traffic since 12 years in the streets of this city. At the same time you become part of the metaphor of the director Vladimir Petrovic who by "Vanishing" discover the real chain of emotions, colours, sounds, habits which are all fainting.

For T.I.F.F. '03 Director Eno Milkani

## The Festival, a Chance for Contacts and Experience Exchange

*- I Feel Good Participating at Home -*



*- You feel better to participate in the first festival of short film, in your home in Tirana?*

- Sure I feel good, because these is the mode to show my film, my people, my college, and to take the advice and the critic from them.

*- How do you expect the idea to participate in this Festival.*

The festival idea I expect with great pleasure and I give my help and I do what I could. Is began to look good to me. Tirana have had an old tradition of cinema, but the last years with there own problems have let also there reflections to us. There are creating new contacts with the involving of the Festival, new spaces to give the pos-

sibility to every participant from all over the world meting each other.

*- What do you thing and how do you feel being inside the Festival?*

- I feel very happy to take part with my documentary "Abandoned Eden" and specially that the Festival is organized here so that I can be in front of my public. It's a film easy to understand. Talking about the other films participating I don't want to pronounce in particularly because each one is beautiful, they got inside a lot of serious work and passion. In art does not exist the concept of who is more beautiful then other. Each one film have it's own beauty and his own exceptions. It's a big party for every artist who participate in Festival, and this party you can not do it with only one movie.

*- What was the thing that*

*gives you the idea?*

- The idea belong to Roland Gjoza who have show it four or five years ago. When Besnik Bisha after have show it at the National Cinematographic Albanian Center the project is been accept and he asked to me to do the director for it. After reading the subject it looked to me wonderful. I have to say also that I have worked in optimal conditions. Just asking for something and it was ready done. I can say that I have realized what I really wanted.

*- In this film you have worked with a Czech republic director of photography. How was the collaboration?*

- The collaboration comes as a request of the technique we wanted to use. His name is Mihal Vojkuvka. I send to him some photos at the beginning of march and



he accept to come. He was very exiting for the sunlight in Albania which is difficult to find in other places.

*- Which are your projects for the future?*

- This depend from the verdict which will keep the National Cinematographic Albanian Center. I think that in march the wining projects will be published. Besnik Bisha, which is also my producer, have in mind to show me a project that I haven't so much information about. We will see... At the moment I would like to go with my film in other Festivals, only the film because for me It's impossible for the reasons we all now. But I would like my film to go in Festivals to show to all the world that Albania exist and she now how to make art.



Producent Ron Holloway for T.I.F.F. '03

## "Triptique" of Jos Stelling for the First Time in Tirana

Jos Stelling (1954) made his debut as a director with Mariken van Nieumeghen in 1974. The film was selected for Cannes in 1975. Since then he has been writing and directing eight feature films. For his short film *The Waiting Room* (1996) Stelling was awarded a Golden Rose (Press Award) in Montreux, a Golden Gryphon in St. Petersburg as well as his fourth Gouden Kalf (Golden Calf, the Dutch film award).

- *What do you think about the International Film Festival that is taking place in Tirana?*

- I am here since two days, but I see that a great job has been done. A film festival is composed of four elements. The first is the projection, which influences substantially the way how the film is viewed and I would say that a good result has been achieved in this direction. The second element is the catalogue and the Web page which make a calling card for the festival and offers the opportunity to be made known in the world. In this sense, I think that T.I.F.F. page in Internet is among the most beautiful and



interesting I have seen. Another element is the print traffic, meaning the transport of films, given that the festival includes films from 30 world countries. The fourth element is the financial aspect.

- *What is your opinion on the selection of the films?*

- I like the selection of films

very much. I would also like to say that their projection is very good. I find interesting the idea that films are screened in a combined way and not divided into separate categories in separate days. I would also call significant that these productions belong to the most recent period, 2002-2003. On the other

hand, it is interesting that the competition includes short films and as such they offer the chance to make comments.

- *What do you think about Albanian films competing in the festival?*

- I can say they are of high quality. Some of them, in particular, are impressive. You should propagate the Albanian cinematography in the world. I know that during the past years many films have been produced here in Albania. You should compile a catalogue including all these films and it should be sent to other countries of the world. At least 800 film festivals are held around the world actually and this offers the opportunity to do such a thing.

- *You have come to present a film out of the competition, entitled "Triptique", of the director Jos Stelling. When can you tell about it?*

- It is a trilogy including three short films, including "The Waiting Room", "The Gallery" and "The Gas Station". It is the first time that these three short films are presented together in a feature film. I don't know if it is going to function, but I hope it is like this.

Opinion from Irvin Mucaj



The participation of the experimental film in the first international festival of short film is an evidence that in Albania as well has started to exist a feeling of tolerance toward this genre.

In the end, every genre has the right to exist. The young

## Experimental Film, A Genre to Be Supported

people, especially in Albania, encounter many difficulties in confronting thoughts and ideas which thereafter are fixed in the pellicle to produce an experimental film.

The only center sponsoring, with the assistance of the state, the film is the National Center of Cinematography (QKK). However, it often happens that young people find themselves not supported financially, being left idly and backward in expressing their ideas. QKK had a positive experience two years ago financing a group of young artists in their works. This sponsoring resulted in the realiza-

tion of the film "Tunnel" of Ilir Butka and Agron Domi, which has participated in several international festivals in the Czech Republic, Morocco, Italy, or my film "Cats in the Snow" which has also been successfully presented in several events.

But, apparently, this experience was then neglected perhaps due to the fact that not all youngsters are consequent in realizing this genre. I believe that the experience of the short

film is very positive as it is closer to feelings and creates possibilities for abstraction and above all it is close to the reality that concerns everyone and one can express it in a very original way.

Therefore, I want to repeat it that the participation in this event of the short film is an initiative to be appraised, as well as it should have proved to be a school for all those young people who have chosen the difficult art of cinematography.

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# T.I.F.F. '03

## ALTERNATIVE THOUGHTS, SIMILAR VIEWS

